

*Amendments to the Claims*

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing multimedia content over a network, comprising:

connecting a multimedia device to a media server storing a plurality of multimedia clips over a communications network;

authenticating said multimedia device, and determining whether said multimedia device is authorized to ~~prior to granting~~ access ~~[[to]]~~ said plurality of multimedia clips;

if said multimedia device has been authenticated and is authorized to access said plurality of multimedia clips, generating a menu for selecting one or more specific clips from said plurality of selectable multimedia clips for playing by said multimedia device, whereby specific clips are selected by user interaction with the menu;

generating a playlist that includes the selected one or more of said plurality of multimedia clips;

transferring said generated playlist to said at least one multimedia device.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said communications network is a local home communications network.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said communications network is a public communications network.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said communications network is the Internet.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said playlist file comprises audio data.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
providing a list of said media servers connected to said at least one multimedia device.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for receiving multimedia content over a network, comprising:

- (a) displaying a list of one or more media servers storing a plurality of selectable multimedia clips available to a multimedia device;
- (b) selecting a media server from said list of one or more media servers via a user interface;
- (c) connecting to said selected media server;
- (d) receiving access to said stored plurality of multimedia clips in response to said media server authenticating said multimedia device and authorizing said multimedia device to access said stored plurality of multimedia clips;
- (e) selecting at least one of said stored plurality of multimedia clips from a menu generated by said media server for rendering by said one or more multimedia devices;

- (f) receiving a playlist;
- (g) parsing said playlist; and
- (h) rendering said selected at least one of said stored plurality of selectable multimedia clips by retrieving files defined in said playlist.

8. (Currently Amended) A networked based multimedia delivery system comprising:

- (a) a media server having a plurality of multimedia clips;
- (b) a multimedia device having input means and display means through which a user may request multimedia clips, [[and]] output means through which requested multimedia clips may be played, and authenticating means to authenticate and connect said multimedia device to said media server, wherein said media server is configured to receive input of said user request for multimedia clips from said multimedia device and to generate a playlist file based on said user's request if said multimedia device has been authenticated and is authorized to access said multimedia clips, and wherein said media server transmits said playlist file to said multimedia device; and

- (c) a local home communications network for interfacing said multimedia device with said at least one media server.

9. (Previously Presented) The networked based multimedia delivery system of claim 8 further comprising:

(a) an access link for connecting said local home communication network to said at least one media server over a public communications network; and

(b) an access gateway for translating communications protocols between said local home communications network and said access link.

10. (Original) The networked based multimedia delivery system of claim 9 wherein said public network is the Internet.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The networked based multimedia delivery system of claim 8 wherein said multimedia device is designed to

(a) be automatically configured on said local home communications network;

(b) resolve a host name in a URL using DNS call;

(c) issue HTTP request;

(d) receive HTTP responses containing MIME objects;

(e) display WML and HTML content;

(f) parse said playlist;

(g) interactively search a database of track, album, and playlist information;

(h) mix said playlist with local content; and

(i) receive channels of multimedia clips from said media server.

13. (Original) The networked based multimedia delivery system of claim 8 wherein said multimedia device is designed to

- (a) be automatically configured on said local home communications network;
- (b) issue HTTP request;
- (c) receive HTTP responses containing MIME objects
- (d) display WML and HTML content;
- (e) parse said playlist; and
- (f) mix said playlist with local content.

14. (Currently Amended) A networked based multimedia delivery system comprising:

- (a) at least one media server for generating a playlist ~~file~~ clips from a plurality of centrally stored multimedia clips in response to user interaction with a menu generated by the server wherein the user identifies particular clips to be played; and
- (b) a multimedia device in communications with said at least one media server, wherein said media server is configured to authenticate said multimedia device and determine whether said multimedia device is authorized to access said plurality of centrally stored multimedia clips, and wherein the multimedia device is configured to receive the playlist file from the media server and to parse the playlist file to obtain clips and play the specified playlist.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A multimedia device for use in a network based multimedia delivery system comprising:

(a) means for automatically configuring the multimedia device on a communications network;

(b) means for displaying at least one media server in communications with the multimedia device over said communications network, wherein said at least one media server has a plurality of stored multimedia clips;

(c) means for providing authentication information to the at least one media server and for receiving access to said stored plurality of multimedia clips in response to said media server authenticating said multimedia device and authorizing said multimedia device to receive access to said stored plurality of multimedia clips;

(d) means for interactively searching said plurality of stored multimedia clips using all or a portion of a text string;

(e) means for passively searching said plurality of stored multimedia clips;

(f) means for requesting at least one of said plurality of stored multimedia clips from said at least one media server;

(g) means for receiving a remotely generated playlist data file from said at least one media server over said communications network, wherein said remotely generated playlist data file is comprised of data identifying said requested at least one of said plurality of stored multimedia clips;

- (h) means for parsing said remotely generated data file; and
- (i) means for displaying said remotely generated data file with local data.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said multimedia device is connected to said media server via a TCP/IP network, and the step of selecting at least one of said plurality of selectable multimedia clips is performed on said media server using a browser interface provided to said multimedia device by said media server.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said media server generates said playlist in response to said selection of multimedia clips received from said multimedia device.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein said step of rendering said playlist is performed by the multimedia device, and comprising the further steps of:

parsing said playlist in said multimedia device; and

retrieving digital multimedia files specified in said playlist over said communications network in response to said parsing operation for playback at said multimedia device.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selecting includes using a portion of a text string, wherein the first few characters of the text string is used to anticipate the entire text string.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the string is used to anticipate the entire text string.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the multimedia device is connected to a plurality of media servers that appear to the multimedia device as one entity.